

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



S2021-SB11

Allocating \$100,000 of the Student Activities Fee Reserves to the Seizing Opportunities Fund due to COVID-19

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Whereas, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated inequities within and outside the Middlebury community, especially for students of BIPOC, low-income, and other marginalized communities

Whereas, national lockdowns and high employment rates due to the pandemic will make it difficult for BIPOC and low-income students to access paid opportunities that they had relied on in the past.

Whereas, majority of students will be off campus during the summer break from June to Septembers;

Whereas, students have had financial hardships exacerbated because of the pandemic;

Whereas, the College in Spring 2020 created the Middlebury Student Emergency Fund, a centralized source of financial support for students with demonstrated need;

Whereas, in Spring 2020, former SGA President Varsha Vijayakumar '20 and former SGA Treasurer Kenshin Cho '20 allocated SAF reserves in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in [S2020-SB9](#);

Whereas, the SGA currently maintains a Student Activities Fee (SAF) reserve fund of ~\$600,000, which contains a surplus of unallocated funds from the Fall 2020 semester.

Therefore, be it enacted...

That, \$100,000 of the SAF be allocated to the Student Emergency Fund to support students through the financial challenges posed by COVID-19 and the extended break from the usual academic calendar;

That, the students can access the Student Emergency Fund for financial assistance with expenses related to technology access, travel, housing, food, medical and mental health services not reimbursed by insurance, and more;

That, the allocation be administered by the SGA Finance Committee, effective immediately;

That, the Seizing Opportunities Fund is organized and distributed by the Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Inclusion;

That, information on how to access the Seizing Opportunities will be emailed by the Dean of Students, reaching students in the two highest tiers of financial need on campus.

Respectfully submitted,

John Schurer, SGA President

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